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A STRANGE NESTING OF THE BARRED OWL AND RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.

BY WALTER A. GOELITZ.

(With Photographs by the Author.)

We often read of Bluebirds, Sparrow Hawks, Screech Owls, and various Woodpeckers living congenially together, but it is seldom that we find the larger birds of prey nesting in the same tree. Several years ago I noticed an article, in which it was stated that there is a continual feud between the Red-tailed Hawk and the Great Horned Owl and one would naturally expect this relation to exist, to a certain extent, between other members of nocturnal and diurnal birds of prey. The following data may be of interest upon this subject:

On April 9, 1916, as I was walking through a large patch of timber along Camp Creek, about half way between Monticello and White Heath, Piatt County, Illinois, I was attracted by the call notes of a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo l. lineatus*). I soon found an old dilapidated-looking nest, which was surrounded by the usual white breast down of nesting hawks. It was situated thirty-five feet up in a crotch against the trunk of a large, leaning white oak. I commenced climbing the tree and had hardly touched it when, on looking upward, I saw a Barred Owl (*Syrnium v. varium*) launch itself from a hollow stub near the hawk nest.

The nest of the hawk was composed of a few sticks laid upon an old squirrel nest and was lined with a small pad of leaves and white feathers. It contained four slightly incu-



bated eggs. Just five feet away and on the same level was the owl nest, it being in a stub of the same tree, as can be seen from the accompanying photographs. The cavity was a foot in diameter, four feet in depth, and nearly perpendicular. The single white egg, which rested on fairly rotted wood and a few large owl feathers, seemed to have been incubated for some time.

On account of the peculiarity of the situation and conditions I collected the Red-shoulder eggs and visited the tree again a week later to obtain photographs and a full set of Barred Owl eggs, if possible, but the original egg was broken and the nest deserted. I have often wished that I had left the birds undisturbed, and instead, had watched to see the natural outcome of this strange community.

Ravinia, Ill., July 11, 1916.

BIRDS BY THE WAYSIDE.

BY ALTHEA R. SHERMAN.

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IN PALESTINE.

Our departure from Egypt for Palestine was in advance of the migrating hosts of birds from the south and after many of the winter residents had started north. As a result of these conditions there was a dearth of bird life in the Holy Land during the first half of March, more pronounced than one would expect in this region, to which H. B. Tristram has ascribed 348 species. It has been said in a previous chapter that the popular routes of travel in the Old World are marked not so much by the birds seen thereon as by failures to see some of the commonest species, whose names have been made familiar by the literature of foreign lands. These failures are due to several causes; the prime one must always be inherent in an itinerary planned to please the majority of sight-seeing travelers, whose stops are generally made in those man-infested, bird-shunned portions of the journey,—